



State of Washington
Department of Revenue

Excise Tax Advisory

Excise Tax Advisories (ETA) are interpretive statements issued by the Department of Revenue under authority of RCW 34.05.230. ETAs explain the Department's policy regarding how tax law applies to a specific issue or specific set of facts. They are advisory for taxpayers; however, the Department is bound by these advisories until superseded by Court action, Legislative action, rule adoption, or an amendment to or cancellation of the ETA.

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NATIONAL GUARD POST EXCHANGE SALES

Issued September 23, 1966

Are sales by a National Guard post exchange subject to Sales Tax?

A post exchange was established to sell various items at cost to National Guard members. An exemption from Sales Tax on sales was claimed by the post exchange because sales made by voluntary unincorporated organizations of enlisted or officer personnel of United States Military Forces are exempt from state taxation.

Rule 190 provides that the Sales Tax does not apply to sales made by the United States or its instrumentalities, or by voluntary unincorporated organizations of Army or Navy personnel to authorized purchasers within a Federal area. The exemption allowed to sales by such groups as officer's clubs and officer's messes is granted because of the Federal authority required for the organization and operation of such units. The National Guard is an instrumentality of the State of Washington, not the Federal Government. Therefore, as provided by Rule 189, the post exchange operated by the National Guard was required to collect Sales Tax on its sales to National Guard members. (Letter.)

ETBS have been made Excise Tax Advisories, and have retained their old number. Advisories with a 2 (plus three digits) are new advisories, ETBs that have been revised and readopted after review under the Department's regulatory improvement program, or advisories that have been revised and/or readopted.

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